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News Release

national machine tool builders association

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AUGUST MACHINE TOOL ORDERS DOWN

August net new machine tool orders fell to $142.30 million according to figures released today by the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. This figure is 12.7% below the July 1987 total of $163.00 million and 7.8% below the August 1986 total of $154.40 million. Compared to the same period in 1986, machine tool order are down 16.3% for the first eight months of 1987.

From July to August metal cutting machine tool orders fell by 4.8% to $97.20 million, while metal forming equipment orders fell by 25.9% to $45.10 million. Compared to August a year ago, metal cutting orders are down 15.6% and metal forming orders are up by 14.8%.

"As summer draws to a close, we look toward the fall with both hope and concern," said James A. Gray, president of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. "The machine tool trade deficit continues to improve. We are doing better in foreign markets and competing better against foreign companies in the U.S. market. On the other hand, when the tax reform bill was passed last year, we warned of the negative effects that it would have on capital spending. Our nation's industry cannot long afford tax laws that

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discourage investment. This is a period of change for American companies, and it is a period of both opportunity and risk for our industry. We are working hard to continue to regain our share of the international market and to improve our market position here at home, in spite of the negative effect of our tax laws."

Machine tool shipments for August fell to $157.95 million, down 20.1% from July. This figure represents a rise of 4.4% over August 1986. However, year-to-date combined shipment figures are down 14.4% compared to the same period in 1986.

August shipments of metal cutting equipment fell to $118.35 million, a drop of 13.2% for the month, while shipments of metal forming equipment dropped to $39.60 million, off 35.6% for the month. Compared to August 1986, shipments of metal cutting equipment rose 9.3% and metal forming shipments fell 8.1%.

Machine tool backlogs for August 1987 fell to $1,047.85 million, down from $1,063.50 million for July.

# # #

COMPARISON CHART

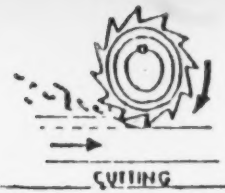
NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
AUG 1987	91.10	6.10	97.20	36.50	8.60	45.10	127.60	14.70	142.30
JUL 1987	84.60	17.50	102.10	43.90	17.00	60.90	128.50	34.50	163.00
% CHANGE									
AUG 1987:JUL 1987	+7.7	-65.1	-4.8	-16.9	-49.4	-25.9	-0.7	-57.4	-12.7
AUG 1986	108.60	6.50	115.10	30.40	8.90	39.30	139.00	15.40	154.40
% CHANGE									
AUG 1987:AUG 1986	-16.1	-6.2	-15.6	+20.1	-3.4	+14.8	-8.2	-4.5	-7.8
YEAR TO DATE 1987	770.85	93.85	864.70	345.05	80.40	425.45	1,115.90	174.25	1,290.15
YEAR TO DATE 1986	1,021.75	120.30	1,142.05	359.35	39.35	398.70	1,381.10	159.65	1,540.75
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-24.6	-22.0	-24.3	-4.0	+104.3	+6.7	-19.2	+9.1	-16.3

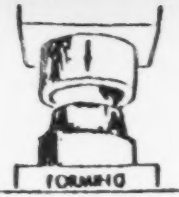
SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
AUG 1987	99.85	18.50	118.35	33.25	6.35	39.60	133.10	24.85	157.95
JUL 1987	127.90	8.40	136.30	54.35	7.15	61.50	182.25	15.55	197.80
% CHANGE									
AUG 1987:JUL 1987	-21.9	+120.2	-13.2	-38.8	-11.2	-35.6	-27.0	+59.8	-20.1
AUG 1986	92.50	15.75	108.25	39.05	4.05	43.10	131.55	19.80	151.35
% CHANGE									
AUG 1987:AUG 1986	+7.9	+17.5	+9.3	-14.9	+56.8	-8.1	+1.2	+25.5	+4.4
YEAR TO DATE 1987	935.15	111.25	1,046.40	343.85	56.40	400.25	1,279.00	167.65	1,446.65
YEAR TO DATE 1986	1,080.00	133.65	1,213.65	440.75	35.30	476.05	1,520.75	168.95	1,689.70
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-13.4	-16.8	-13.8	-22.0	+59.8	-15.9	-15.9	-0.8	-14.4

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,883.35	$ 241.95	$ 2,125.30	1,204.35	$ 2,306.05	$ 272.45	$ 2,578.50
1987							
JAN	$ 118.55	$ 28.10	$ 146.65	1,203.30	$ 135.35	$ 12.35	$ 147.70
FEB	$ 141.45	$ 11.40	$ 152.85	1,209.55	$ 131.45	$ 15.15	$ 146.60
MAR	$ 136.25	$ 27.95	$ 164.20	1,191.25	$ 154.05	$ 28.45	$ 182.50
APR	$ 110.15	$ 20.15	$ 130.30	1,149.20	$ 150.15	$ 22.20	$ 172.35
MAY	$ 176.10	$ 12.00	$ 188.10	1,128.70	$ 189.80	$ 18.80	$ 208.60
JUN	$ 177.30	$ 25.45	$ 202.75	1,098.30	$ 202.85	$ 30.30	$ 233.15
JUL	$ 128.50	$ 34.50	$ 163.00	1,063.50	$ 182.25	$ 15.55	$ 197.80
AUG (P)	$ 127.60	$ 14.70	$ 142.30	1,047.85	$ 133.10	$ 24.85	$ 157.95
8 MONTHS	$ 1,115.90	$ 174.25	$ 1,290.15		$ 1,279.00	$ 167.65	$ 1,446.65

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 2,065.20	$ 257.20	$ 2,322.40	$ 181.85	$ 15.25	$ 197.10
1987						
JAN	$ 124.60	$ 28.20	$ 152.80	$ 6.05	$ .10	$ 6.15
FEB	$ 147.45	$ 13.60	$ 161.05	$ 6.00	$ 2.20	$ 8.20
MAR	$ 165.05	$ 30.05	$ 195.10	$ 28.80	$ 2.10	$ 30.90
APR	$ 119.60	$ 21.05	$ 140.65	$ 9.45	$ .90	$ 10.35
MAY	$ 180.40	$ 12.95	$ 193.35	$ 4.30	$ .95	$ 5.25
JUN	$ 182.05	$ 26.10	$ 208.15	$ 4.75	$ .65	$ 5.40
JUL	$ 141.60	$ 34.60	$ 176.20	$ 13.10	$ .10	$ 13.20
AUG (P)	$ 137.80	$ 15.75	$ 153.55	$ 10.20	$ 1.05	$ 11.25
8 MONTHS	$ 1,198.55	$ 182.30	$ 1,380.85	$ 82.65	$ 8.05	$ 90.70

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,376.55	$ 167.70	$ 1,544.25	897.25	$ 1,684.70	$ 205.60	$ 1,890.30
1987							
JAN	$ 85.65	$ 13.30	$ 98.95	884.95	$ 104.10	$ 7.15	$ 111.25
FEB	$ 98.35	$ 5.35	$ 103.70	889.40	$ 88.80	$ 10.45	$ 99.25
MAR	$ 107.55	$ 15.90	$ 123.45	874.20	$ 118.20	$ 20.45	$ 138.65
APR	$ 65.15	$ 14.40	$ 79.55	837.90	$ 102.10	$ 13.75	$ 115.85
MAY	$ 139.60	$ 5.20	$ 144.80	821.05	$ 146.00	$ 15.65	$ 161.65
JUN	$ 98.85	$ 16.10	$ 114.95	770.90	$ 148.20	$ 16.90	$ 165.10
JUL	$ 84.60	$ 17.50	$ 102.10	736.70	$ 127.90	$ 8.40	$ 136.30
AUG (P)	$ 91.10	$ 6.10	$ 97.20	715.55	$ 99.85	$ 18.50	$ 118.35
8 MONTHS	$ 770.85	$ 93.85	$ 864.70		$ 935.15	$ 111.25	$ 1,046.40

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,498.60	$ 176.35	$ 1,674.95	$ 122.05	$ 8.65	$ 130.70
1987						
JAN	$ 90.30	$ 13.35	$ 103.65	$ 4.65	$ .05	$ 4.70
FEB	$ 101.55	$ 7.50	$ 109.05	$ 3.20	$ 2.15	$ 5.35
MAR	$ 114.00	$ 17.95	$ 131.95	$ 6.45	$ 2.05	$ 8.50
APR	$ 73.35	$ 14.75	$ 88.10	$ 8.20	$ .35	$ 8.55
MAY	$ 143.55	$ 5.60	$ 149.15	$ 3.95	$ .40	$ 4.35
JUN	$ 101.65	$ 16.60	$ 118.25	$ 2.80	$ .50	$ 3.30
JUL	$ 96.40	$ 17.55	$ 113.95	$ 11.80	$ .05	$ 11.85
AUG (P)	$ 94.85	$ 6.55	$ 101.40	$ 3.75	$ .45	$ 4.20
8 MONTHS	$ 815.65	$ 99.85	$ 915.50	$ 44.80	$ 6.00	$ 50.80

P - Preliminary

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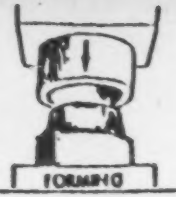

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	NET NEW ORDERS Foreign	NET NEW ORDERS Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	SHIPMENTS Foreign	SHIPMENTS Total
1986	$ 506.80	$ 74.25	$ 581.05	307.10	$ 621.35	$ 66.85	$ 688.20
1987							
JAN	$ 32.90	$ 14.80	$ 47.70	318.35	$ 31.25	$ 5.20	$ 36.45
FEB	$ 43.10	$ 6.05	$ 49.15	320.15	$ 42.65	$ 4.70	$ 47.35
MAR	$ 28.70	$ 12.05	$ 40.75	317.05	$ 35.85	$ 8.00	$ 43.85
APR	$ 45.00	$ 5.75	$ 50.75	311.30	$ 48.05	$ 8.45	$ 56.50
MAY	$ 36.50	$ 6.80	$ 43.30	307.65	$ 43.80	$ 3.15	$ 46.95
JUN	$ 78.45	$ 9.35	$ 87.80	327.40	$ 54.65	$ 13.40	$ 68.05
JUL	$ 43.90	$ 17.00	$ 60.90	326.80	$ 54.35	$ 7.15	$ 61.50
AUG (P)	$ 36.50	$ 8.60	$ 45.10	332.30	$ 33.25	$ 6.35	$ 39.60
8 MONTHS	$ 345.05	$ 80.40	$ 425.45		$ 343.85	$ 56.40	$ 400.25

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	GROSS NEW ORDERS Foreign	GROSS NEW ORDERS Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	CANCELLATIONS Foreign	CANCELLATIONS Total
1986	$ 566.60	$ 80.85	$ 647.45	$ 59.80	$ 6.60	$ 66.40
1987						
JAN	$ 34.30	$ 14.85	$ 49.15	$ 1.40	$ .05	$ 1.45
FEB	$ 45.90	$ 6.10	$ 52.00	$ 2.80	$ .05	$ 2.85
MAR	$ 51.05	$ 12.10	$ 63.15	$ 22.35	$ .05	$ 22.40
APR	$ 46.25	$ 6.30	$ 52.55	$ 1.25	$ .55	$ 1.80
MAY	$ 36.85	$ 7.35	$ 44.20	$ .35	$ .55	$ .90
JUN	$ 80.40	$ 9.50	$ 89.90	$ 1.95	$ .15	$ 2.10
JUL	$ 45.20	$ 17.05	$ 62.25	$ 1.30	$ .05	$ 1.35
AUG (P)	$ 42.95	$ 9.20	$ 52.15	$ 6.45	$ .60	$ 7.05
8 MONTHS	$ 382.90	$ 82.45	$ 465.35	$ 37.85	$ 2.05	$ 39.90

P - Preliminary

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